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I CAN'T! SOME-THING'S GOT MY...
OH MY GOD, IT'S GOT MY LEG! GET IT OFF ME! GET IT OFF...
...MMMMMMMMMM...
NED!

JOHN ROZUM writer • ARVELL JONES pencils • JOHN STANISCI inks
STEVE DUTRO letterer • DAVID MONTOYA painted color • DWAYNE McDUFFIE editor

YOU'RE KOBALT, AREN'T YOU?
P-PLEASE DON'T...
~PLEASE DON'T EAT ME.
SPLOOSH
THAT DEPENDS ON YOU.

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Order by June 2nd and Get A FREE Batman/Punisher Poster!

By popular demand! Batman & The Punisher form an uneasy alliance as they track down a mysterious villain & his plot to poison the water supply! 48 pages! **Red Hot!**

Batman/Punisher Lake of Fire #1 (48 pages - **Reg $4.95**) **3.95**
The first new DC/Marvel crossover in years! 48 pages! Deluxe format!

Punisher/Archie: When Worlds Collide

Punisher/Archie When Worlds Collide #1 (48 pgs **Reg $3.95**) **2.95**
It's the most unusual team up ever as the Punisher visits Riverdale in search of a killer! Art by John Buscema! Could be a huge surprise hit!

BATMAN

	Reg.	Sale
Batman/Punisher 1	4.95	3.95

Batman & The Punisher form an uneasy alliance! 48 pgs!

Batman KnightsEnd

Batman 510	1.50	1.25
Detective 677	1.50	1.25
Leg Dark Knight 63	1.75	1.50
Shadow of Bat 30	1.95	1.75

The gripping finale of KnightsEnd!

DC Master Series I (Pack)		1.50
DC Master Series I (Box)		49.95

New fully painted 90 card series in the tradition of Marvel Masterpieces! Sealed box contains 36 packs(216 cards)! Looks great!

MARVEL

	Reg.	Sale
Alice Cooper 1	4.95	3.95

A tale of music & mysticism by Neil Gaiman of Sandman!

Blade 1 (Foil cover)	2.95	2.50

Blade confronts Dracula in this all new vampire infested series!

Blaze 1 (Foil cover)	2.95	2.50

The original Ghost Rider gets his own new monthly series!

Iron Man 2020 #1	5.95	4.95

Excellent new 64 page story by Walt Simonson & Bob Wiacek!

	Reg.	Sale
Machine Man 2020 #1	$2.1	1.75

It's techno terror by Tom DeFalco & Barry Windsor-Smith! 48 pgs!

Marvels #0(Painted)	2.95	2.50

Contains a new painted story by Alex Ross plus sketches & more!

Marvel 1994 Swimsuit	$5/3	3.50

All new! The hottest babes by Marvel's hottest artists! 48 pgs!

Punisher/Archie 1	3.95	2.95

The Punisher meets Archie in the most unusual crossover ever!

Flair Marvel Universe Cards Series I (Fleer - Per Pack)	4.00
Flair Marvel Universe Cards Series I (Fleer - Sealed Box)	89.95

Strictly limited super premium 150 card series by the industry's top comic artists! Sealed box contains 24 packs (240 cards)!

VIOLATOR

Spawn's hideous arch-nemesis gets his own series! **Hot!!**

	Reg.	Sale
Violator 1,2 (New!)	1.95	1.75

By Alan Moore & Bart Sears!

SPIDER-MAN

With a new animated series this fall, these new Spidey series are a "can't miss"!

	Reg.	Sale
Annex 1 (Spidey)	1.75	1.50

Introduces Marvel's newest hero!

Arachnis Project 1	1.75	1.50

Spidey discovers a conspiracy in this great new 6-issue series!

Black Cat 1,2	1.50	1.25

The Black Cat gets her own series!

Web of Deom 1	1.75	1.50

Spidey is framed for murder in this great new 3 issue thriller!

Venom: Vengeance 1	2.95	2.50

Venom & Vengeance form an uneasy alliance! Glossy paper!

VALIANT

Similar to Unity, the 17-part "Chaos Effect" will be red hot!

	Reg.	Sale
★ **Beta Set** (Part 1-4)	9.75	7.95

Includes Shadowman #29 Turok #18 Dr. Mirage #11 Secrets of Valiant #2!

★ **Gamma Set** (Part 5-8)	9.50	7.85

Includes Bloodshot #20 Ninjak #8 Sword Weapons #13, Eternal Warrior #28!

★ **Delta Set** (Part 9-12)	9.25	7.95

Includes Harbinger #34 Armorines #5 X-O Manowar #33, Hard CORPS #23!

★ **Epsilon Set** (Pt 13-16)	9.00	7.95

Includes Solar #36, Starwatchers #3 Rai #26 Magnus Robot Fighter #41!

Omega 81 (Part 17)	2.25	1.75

The finale! By Bob Layton & Jerry Ordway!

★ **Chaos Set** (Pt 1-17)	39.75	24.95

Save money! Contains all 17 issues plus a free Chaos Effect: Alpha #0!

ETM® Top 10 Picks!

	Reg./	Sale
1 Batman/Punisher #1 (48 pgs)	4.95	3.95

Batman & the Punisher form an uneasy alliance!

2 DC Master Series I Cards (Per Pack)		1.50
DC Master Series I Cards(Sealed Box)		49.95

Fully painted super-deluxe 90 card series in the tradition of Marvel Masterpieces! Looks great!

3 Judge Dredd #1 (New Series!)	1.95	1.75

All new monthly series! Could be a huge hit!

4 Marvel Universe Series I (Flair - Pack)		4.00
Marvel Universe I (Flair - Sealed Box)		89.95

Hot new 150 card super-premium series from Fleer! Sealed box contains 24 packs (240 cards)!

5 Marvel 1994 Swimsuit Special	$5/3	3.50

The hottest babes by the hottest Marvel artists!

	Reg./	Sale
6 Punisher/Archie #1 (48 pgs)	3.95	2.95

The most unusual team-up ever as the Punisher visits Riverdale! John Buscema art! Die cut cover!

7 Superman: Lois & Clark Trade	$10/7	95

Huge 192 pg trade featuring the best Lois & Clark stories by John Byrne, Jerry Ordway & more!

8 Valiant Files Series I (Pack)		1.50
Valiant Files Series I (Box)		39.95

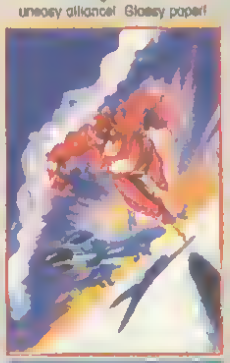
All new original artwork! All new 120 card series!

9 Violator #1,2 (All new!) ...	1.95	1.75

Spawn's arch-nemesis gets his own series! A riveting story by Alan Moore & Bart Sears!

10 Wolverine/Typhoid Mary Trade $7/5.95

Sparks fly as Wolvie encounters Typhoid Mary!



NEW CARDS

DC Master Series I Cards (Pack)	1.50
DC Master Series I Cards(Box)	49.95

All new 90 card fully painted series! Box contains 36 packs (216 cards)!

Flair Marvel Universe I (Pack)	4.00
Flair Marvel Universe I (Box)	89.95

New fully painted super deluxe series! Box contains 24 packs (240 cards)!

Valiant Files I Cards (Pack)	1.50
Valiant Files I Cards (Box)	39.95

Completely new 120 card series! Box contains 36 packs (288 cards)!

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Collector Gift Bag (10 comics)	$7
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10 very valuable comics! Lots of #1's! Contains 20 different superhero comics!

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50 Regular Backing Boards	$3.95
100 Regular Comic Bags	$4.50

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Batman Killing Joke (Bolland)	$4/	3.50
Batman Knightfall Vol 1 or 2	$13/	9.95
Batman Sword of Azrael	$10/	7.95
Batman Ten Nights of Beast	$6/	4.95

A great 96 page story by Jim Starlin!

Beavis & Butt-Head Trade	$13/	8.95

Contains issues #1 4 plus new art!

Death of Superman Trade	$5/	3.95
Green Lantern Emerald Twilight	$6/	4.95

Contains the entire 3-pt story! 80 pgs!

Hulk Imperfect Future(New!)	$13/	9.95
Marvel 1994 Swimsuit Special	$5/	3.50

The hottest babes by the hottest artists!

Spidey vs Venom(McFarlane)	$13/	9.95
Superman Lois & Clark	$10/	7.95

All new! The best stories! 192 pgs!

Superman Returns Trade	$15/	11.95
Superman World Without	$7.50/	5.95
Wolverine Trade (Miller)	$10/	7.95
Wolverine vs Typhoid Mary	$7/	5.95

Wolvie battles Typhoid Mary! 96 pgs!

X-Men Adventures Vol 1 gr 2	$5/	3.95
X-Men Dark Phoenix Saga	$13/	10.95
X-Men From The Ashes	$17/	14.95
X-Men X Tinction Trade	$25/	19.95

DC COMICS

	Reg./	Sale
Aquaman 1 (All new!)	1.50/	1.25
Batman/Punisher #1	4.95/	3.95
Judge Dredd 1 (New!)	1.95/	1.75
Superman 92(Dan Jurgens)	1.50/	1.25
Vamps 1 (Vertigo - New!)	1.95/	1.75

BATMAN KNIGHTSEND

Batman 510(KnightsEnd)	1.50/	1.25
Detective 677 (KnightsEnd)	1.50/	1.25
Legends Dark Knight 63	1.75/	1.50
Shadow Bat 30(KnightsEnd)	1.95/	1.75

IMAGE

	Reg. /	Sale
Cyberforce II 95 (Stwart)	1.95/	1.75
Maxx 9 (Sam Keith art!)	1.95/	1.75
Pitt 5 (Dale Keown art!)	1.95/	1.75
Prophet 7 (Platt art!)	1.95/	1.75
Spawn 22 (McFarlane art!)	1.95/	1.75
Wild CATS 11 (Jim Lee art!)	2.50/	1.95
Union #0 (Origin)	2.50/	1.95
Violator 1 2 (Bart Sears art!)	1.95/	1.75
Youngblood 6 (Liefeld art!)	3.50/	2.95

MARVEL

	Reg./	Sale
Amazing Spiderman 392	1.50/	1.25
Annex 1 (All new!)	1.75/	1.50
Blackcat 1 2 (All New!)	1.50/	1.25
Blade 1 (Foil cover)	2.95/	2.50
Blaze 1 (Foil cover)	2.95/	2.50
Cable 14 (vs O'Spayre)	2.00/	1.75
Deadpool 1 (All New!)	2.50/	1.95
Excalibur 50 (New story!)	1.95/	1.75
Hulk 420 (Peter David)	1.50/	1.25
Iron Man 2020 #1 (64 pgs)	5.95/	4.95
Machine Man 2020 #1	2.00/	1.75
Marvels #0 (Painted art)	2.95/	2.50
Marvels 1994 Swimsuit	6.00/	3.50
New Warriors 50	2.95/	2.50
Punisher vs Archie #1	3.95/	2.95
Spiderman 49(Hobgoblin)	1.95/	1.75
Spiderman Unlimited 6	3.95/	3.50
Spidey Arachnis Project 1	1.75/	1.50
Spidey Web of Doom 1	1.75/	1.50
Uncanny X Men 315	1.50/	1.25
Venom Vengeance 1(New!)	2.95/	2.50
Wolverine 84 (Kubert art)	2.00/	1.75
X-Factor 105 (Mr. Sinister)	1.50/	1.25
X-Force 37 (vs Nimrod)	1.50/	1.25
X Men 35 (Kubert art)	1.50/	1.25
X-Men 2099 #11 (Lim art)	1.50/	1.25
X-Men Adventures II 07	1.25/	.99

ENTERTAINMENT THIS MONTH

Box 470-E56D
Gainesville, VA 22065
(703)-330-3500

1. Orders sent by June 2nd get a Free Batman/Punisher poster!
2. Orders begin shipping on July 1st! (Allow 3-6 weeks for shipping.)
3. The minimum order is $10.
4. All items are guaranteed in the new Mint-Near Mint condition!
5. Prices are per each issue or item!
6. U.S. add $3.95 for shipping. Canada $4.95. Foreign $7.95. (Free shipping for orders over $100!)
7. Add extra $1 for insurance.
8. Enclose check or money order. Payment in U.S. funds only.
9. Phone or fax credit card orders! Call 9-6 pm Mon-Fri (EST). Fax anytime to 703-330-8200.
10. Orders received after June 2nd, 1994 may receive limits on hot items & will ship in 3-6 weeks.

We reserve the right to update prices, limit quantities, & refuse any order. Not responsible for publisher delays! Ad expires 7/1/94. Send $1 for our new catalog after then! **Thanks!**

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ERNEST HEMINGWAY HIGH SCHOOL...
WHAT'S THIS? "CAPE AND COWL" MAGAZINE? ARE YOU A SUPER-NERD, PAGE?
YEAH. "THE WUSSY".
SKA
3C
SAT'C IS MERSK
OR DO YOU JUST BEAT ON YOUR LITTLE SUPER-VILLAIN WHILE LOOKING AT PICTURES OF MEN IN TIGHTS?
RRRIP
UP YOURS.
WHUMP
YOU'D BETTER NOT FORGET YOUR LUNCH MONEY TOMORROW, WUSS.
ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO GET YOU.
I'M SHAKING.

OLD DOWNTOWN..
I HEAR THAT KOBALT NAILED NED SAWYER AND RON CASSIDY.
HEARD HE FLAYED THEM AND MAILED THEIR SKINS TO THEIR BOSS MAN.
SOMEONE OUGHTA WARN DUDLEY.
WHAT FOR?
DON'T YOU KNOW? DUDLEY'S WORKING WITH THEM. HE'S THE ONE MAKING THE TRANSACTION.
IF KOBALT EVER GOT TO HIM... I DON'T EVEN WANNA THINK ABOUT IT.

EASTER VACATION DOESN'T START UNTIL 2:30. SETTLE DOWN.
HERE YOU GO, RICHARD.
GREAT.
REPORT CARD
ALGEBRA C-
ENGLISH C
WESTERN CIVILIZATION C
BIOLOGY C-
PHYS. ED. A
ART C
FRENCH C-
RICHARD IS NOT WORKING UP TO HIS FULL CAPABILITIES.
OLD DAKOTA...
OPEN UP, DUDLEY. I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE.
YOUR LANDLORD'S NOT GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY IF I BREAK YOUR DOOR DOWN.
bomp
bomp
20
20

20
KRASH

a REVOLUTION! in COMICS
ONGOING MONTHLY
HARDWARE
ICON
SHADOW CABINET
BLOOD SYNDICATE
XOMBI
STATIC
KOBALT
MILESTONE
MORE THAN JUST THE COLOR

He took one step beyond
and he can't step back.
Xombi
MILESTONE
MORE THAN JUST THE COMIC
NEW ONGOING MONTHLY
MILE
Xombi™ DC Comics
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THE COMPANY LINE

WRITE: THE COMPANY LINE MILESTONE MEDIA, INC. 519 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE #409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

It's been mentioned elsewhere but when the four founders of Milestone were kids, they loved comics. There came a time for each, when he was only ten or so, that he picked up a comic book that was so completely absorbing and exciting that he was thrust into a world that rumbled and shook with tremendous deeds and sweeping grandeur, threatening to break the bounds of the printed page and usurp our own mundane world. This single comic had been infused with greatness and would doubtless go down in history as the greatest comic book ever.

For Derek, this comic was [illegible] Derek. this comic was NEW GODS #1. For Dwayne, it was FANTASTIC FOUR #69. For Michael it was FANTASTIC FOUR #71. In each case, this was the young Milestone founder's first look at the work of JACK KIRBY. And this single [illegible] could have been almost anything Jack drew [illegible] his career.

All of us at Milestone know that Derek, as President and Chief Operating Officer has to deal with precise figures. He has to know the exact cost of every deal that crosses his desk as well as every penny in his desk to keep things running smoothly. Yet, on the wall behind that desk is a slightly worn convention sketch that Jack drew of the Black Racer, when Derek was a kid. To Derek it's perhaps the only thing in his office that transcends mere value. It's the only truly priceless item at Milestone.

We all join millions of readers over the entire history of comics in mourning the passing of Jack Kirby. He was the best, and always will be.

UBER MENTION

Next month, you'll be seeing more of ICON, HARDWARE, STATIC and the BLOOD SYNDICATE – when WORLDS COLLIDE! If we're going to putt off another crossover, we'll have to top our own SHADOW WAR event, from several months ago. So our First Four titles will be crossing over with DC COMICS' SUPERMAN GROUP! You'll be able to see our heroes and villains in SUPERMAN, THE MAN OF STEEL, SUPERBOY and STEEL. Of course, that means we're letting Superman, Superboy and Steel into our books, too. That's professional courtesy between universes.

The fate of the two most exciting comics universes – Milestone and DC, in case you were wondering – hangs in the balance, so you can see why this crossover just HAD to happen. More next month.

WHAT BECOMES A LEGEND MOST?

A COVER MONTH! Silly puppy. This month, all SEVEN (!) of our titles bask in the glory of a cover by comics great JOHN BYRNE. If you've never heard of him, scuttle out from under your rock and read DANGER, UNLIMITED or JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN (after you check out our three new titles, XOMBI, SHADOW CABINET and KOBALT – first things first, right?)

John's a writer's writer, an artist's artist, and a tough act to follow – as the folks who came after him on X-MEN, THE FANTASTIC FOUR and SUPERMAN had to learn the hard way. We're thrilled to have John inaugurate the new Milestone cover design – tell us what YOU think of it.

Let's see: That makes Denys Cowan (May '93); Walter Simonson (January '94) and now John Byrne – who should be the artist for the NEXT cover month?

BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

It's been a little over a year (give or take one or two issues) since HARDWARE #1 hit the stands. We haven't CELEBRATED yet, though. SURPRISE!!

To belatedly honor the anniversary, HARDWARE #16 is a 48-page special issue, with a whole NEW status quo for our hero – he isn't a HERO anymore. The good news? He's running a whole 'nother set of high-tech weaponry!

This pivotal issue is meant to be READ. So whether you get the version with the "barn door"-type cover or the regular edition, buy only as many as you can read, then make sure you READ IT! If you throw HARDWARE #16 in a bag, you won't understand HARDWARE #17 – the second chapter of the WORLDS COLLIDE crossover, which begins in SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #35. So, it's reasonable to say that SUPERMAN HIMSELF wants you to read HARDWARE #16! It's a matter of truth, justice and freedom of expression for all mankind. Don't forget to brush!

Have you seen this poster in your comics store? If not, ask your retailer why!

JUNE MILESTONES™

❑ **HARDWARE #16** *McDuffie, Cowan, Rollins, J. Scott J. & Giddings, ships April 12th* HARDWARE, VERSION 2.0!! With ALVA's backing, Curt develops an even BETTER set of weapons, at an unimaginable cost. But when a rival SYSTEM cell shows up, Curt has to stop them from punching his meal ticket! ❑ **ICON #14** *Bright, Gustovich, Tanghal, & Brown, ships April 19th* M.D. BRIGHT makes his debut as writer/artist, when ROCKET loses her belt – the source of her abilities – to a petty thug. Suddenly, this guy's not so petty, and goes on a murderous rampage through downtown Dakota! ❑ **XOMBI #1** *Rozum, Birch & Giddings; Ships April 19th* The creepy origin of DAVID KIM's powers are revealed for the first time. When mysterious creatures come to his lab to steal his technology, the bioengineer spills his guts – LITERALLY! ❑ **BLOOD SYNDICATE #15** *Velez, Jr., Williams III, Quijano, & Wnghtson, ships April 26* INFESTATION – the final chapter! BOOGIEMAN, KWAI and WISE SON lead the rats' retaliation in the Lair of the White Roach! Not for the squeamish. ❑ **SHADOW CABINET #1** *Washington III, Leon, Martinbrough & Giddings; ships April 26th* DHARMA, the enigmatic leader of the secret organization of superpowered beings, sends IRON BUTTERFLY, SIDESHOW, DONNER, BLITZEN and PLUS on an aquatic SAND (Search And Destroy) mission. The target, CORPSICLE, a vicious mass-murderer who kills with his touch! ❑ **KOBALT #1** *Rozum, Jones, Stanisci & Montoya, Ships May 3rd* KOBALT has been exacting vengeance from Dakota's criminal element for years. When a powerful man calls in a favor, the shadowy avenger must endure his worst nightmare: a SIDEKICK ❑ **STATIC #13** *Washington III, Wilfred, Quijano & Roberts, ships May 10th* SNAKEFINGER's a shape-shifter in the employ of Dakota's neo-nazi gang, the Sons of Odin. He's immune to Static's powers, and he's learned that Static is Virgil Hawkins! It's a showdown at the Abandoned Gas Station of Solitude! ❑ **XOMBI POSTER BY MOEBIUS** *22" x 34", suitable for framing, ships May 3rd* The first of four by the internationally acclaimed artist. Collect 'em all!

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WHUD

WHY, DO YOU FEEL THREATENED?

I TOLD YOU. I DON'T WANT YOU TALKING TO HIM.
WE WORK TOGETHER. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
SHARKS

WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT, TWERP?

NOTHING

I WOULDN'T, UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO DO THE SAME TO THE OTHER HAND, TOO.
20/20
THAT MONEY REALLY BELONGS TO SOMEBODY ELSE, DOESN'T IT?
SALT
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DUDLEY?
YOU FORGET HOW TO USE YOUR VOICE?
MAYBE THIS WILL HELP.
SSSS
ALT

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL YOUR COPIES OF CAPE AND COWL?
SOLD OUT?
LOTTO WIN?
ICON STOPPED SOME CARJACKERS RIGHT OUTSIDE THE STORE TODAY.
ICON. WOW. I'VE NEVER SEEN A SUPER HERO IN REAL LIFE.
SAY DIDN'T YOU ALREADY BUY A COPY THIS MORNING?
WHERE THE HELL'S DUDLEY? WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG?
UH, KIRK. LOOK UP THERE.

HUH?
I LOVE YOU
BARNEY SEZ:
I LOVE YOU
BARNEY SEZ:
I LOVE YOU
BARNEY SEZ:
BARNEY SEZ:
NOT
HUH?

PTOO
BLAMF
SPSSS
HRK
IT'S A SET-UP!
PTOO

OW!
UHHHHH...
HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
VROOOOM
I PLANNED AHEAD.
I MANAGE TO DROP ONE MORE BEFORE THEY FIND ME.

THE LAST THREE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM.
OOPS.
EVEN SO, THERE'S LESS THAN TEN FEET SEPARATING US.

Comics Buyer's Guide
1993 FAN AWARDS

What are your favorites in the world of comics? **Comics Buyer's Guide**, the weekly newspaper devoted to the world of comic books, sponsors these awards to let you, the reader, cast your ballot in determining what the fan favorites are for the year.

Rules & Regulations: Only material with a 1993 cover date can win. Votes for projects that did not have a 1993 publication date will not be counted. This ballot may be copied and passed on to your friends for their votes. Anyone who loves comics can vote – but only vote once. If you vote more than once, ALL your votes will be thrown out. Vote only in the categories you want, and ignore any you don't. **Comics Buyer's Guide** is not eligible for Category 15. Every CBG voter in the United States will get a free issue of **Comics Buyer's Guide** with the results (scheduled to be #1081, dated August 5, 1994), unless you already have a current subscription to **CBG**. Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that free copies of **CBG** can't be mailed out of the country unless your vote is accompanied by $3.00 in U.S. funds to cover handling and shipping. The award winners will be announced at the Atlanta Comics Expo, held July 15-17, 1994.

Mail your ballot individually in a single envelope by June 1, 1994 to:
Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards
700 E. State St. Iola, WI 54990-0001

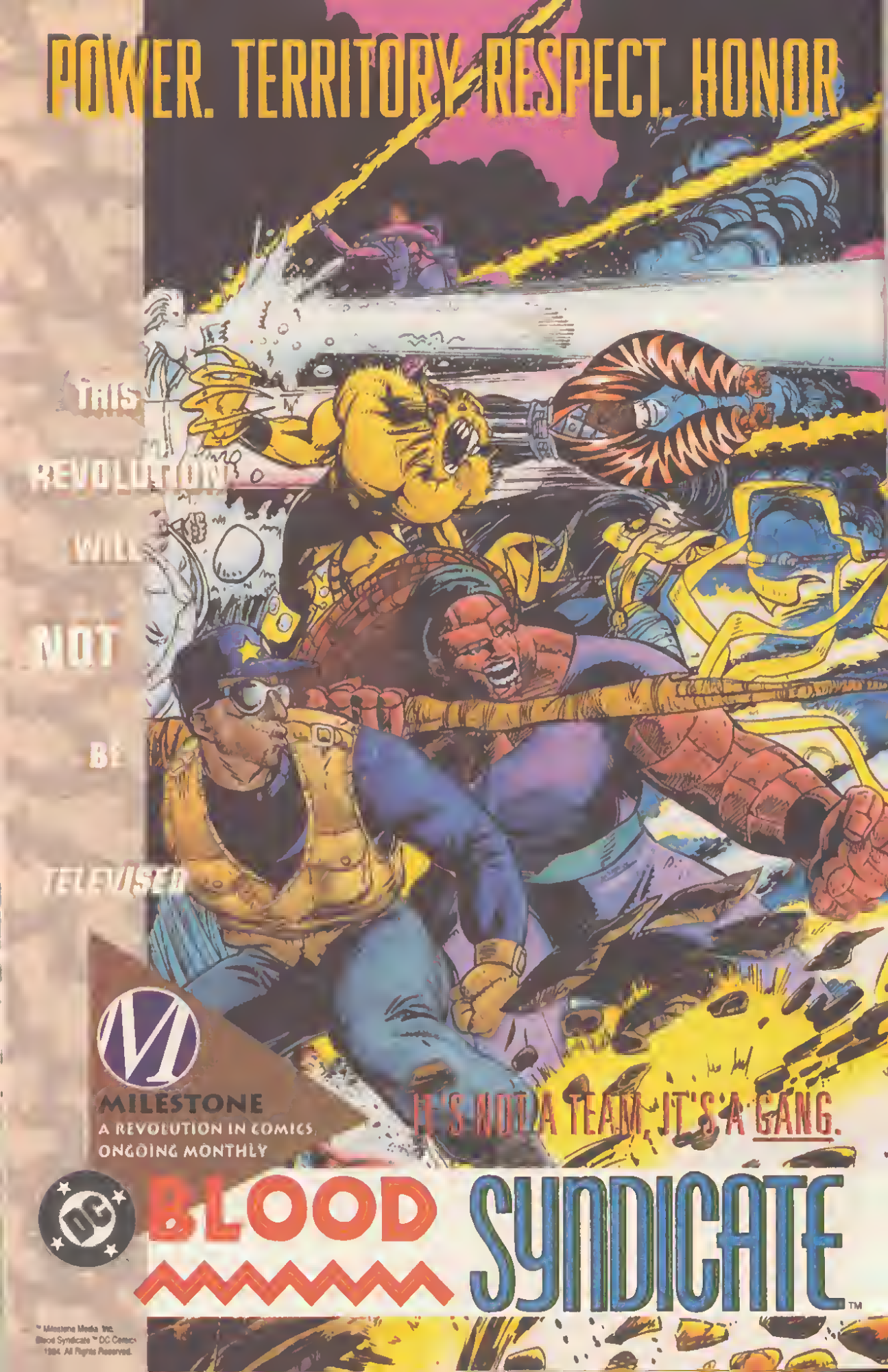
Name _____ Age _____ Male Female (circle one)

Street or Box _____

City, State, and Zip _____

I got this ballot from: _____

1. FAVORITE EDITOR _____
2. FAVORITE WRITER _____
3. FAVORITE PENCILLER _____
4. FAVORITE INKER _____
5. FAVORITE COLORIST _____
6. FAVORITE PAINTER _____
7. FAVORITE LETTERER _____
8. FAVORITE COVER ARTIST _____
9. FAVORITE COMIC-BOOK STORY _____
10. FAVORITE COMIC BOOK _____
11. FAVORITE LIMITED COMIC-BOOK SERIES _____
12. FAVORITE ORIGINAL GRAPHIC NOVEL OR ALBUM _____
13. FAVORITE REPRINT GRAPHIC NOVEL OR ALBUM _____
14. FAVORITE CHARACTER _____
15. FAVORITE PUBLICATION ABOUT COMICS _____



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I JUST HAVE TO MOVE FASTER THAN HE CAN FOLLOW.
brakka brakka brakka
WHOK

XXX, HE'S GOT BACK-UP!
BLAM
WHUNK
CHOK
SO.
ONCE AGAIN, YOU BEAT ME TO THE ACTION.

...AND ONCE AGAIN I HAVE TO COME IN AND SAVE YOUR ASS.
OF COURSE, THERE IS A WAY THAT WE COULD AVOID ALL OF THIS
FORGET IT, CLOVER.
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE. I WORK ALONE.
WHY?
IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE EFFICIENT IF WE POOLED OUR RESOURCES...
...AS CIRCUMSTANCE HAS PROVEN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.
THERE'S SOME SORT OF SILENT REVOLT GOING ON AMONGST ST. CLOUD'S LOWER ECHELONS.
THEY'RE REROUTING HIS MONEY, REINVESTING IT, MAKING THEIR OWN PROFITS AND RETURNING WHAT'S HIS BACK TO HIM, WITHOUT HIS SUSPECTING A THING.

MEANWHILE, THEY'RE ARMING THEMSELVES, CREATING THEIR OWN NICHES.
IT'S TOO SUBTLE FOR THESE LOW-LEVEL PEONS TO HAVE MASTER-MINDED IT THEMSELVES.
WHOEVER'S BEHIND IT HAS TO BE A MAJOR PLAYER. NEITHER OF US IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO TAKE HIM OR HER OUT ON OUR OWN.
AND YOU KNOW
POOM!
ARE YOU THROUGH?
MEN'S WAR

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DAMN YOU, KOBALT.
NO MORE PARTNERS. EVER.
YOU WANT THIS DOLLAR, IT'S YOURS.
BUT FROM NOW ON, STAY OUT OF MY WAY.

RICKY! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
THIS OBSESSION OF YOURS HAS GONE TOO FAR!
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THIS?
RUN AROUND FIGHTING THE BLOOD SYNDICATE FOR CRYING OUT LOUD?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR GRADES? WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT THOSE?
THIS HAS GOTTEN WAY OUT OF HAND.
YOU NEED HELP.
AND I KNOW JUST WHERE TO GET IT.

NEXT: WALKING THE PLANK

KOBALT's PAGE

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KOBALT: HOW TO BE A HERO

The newest writer in the Milestone pantheon, JOHN ROZUM, and the Man who Killed Tech-9, ARVELL JONES, are suddenly one of the tightest writer/penciller teams in comics. If you've read this premiere issue of KOBALT, you don't need to be told. But as of this writing, several completed issues bear witness to a startling fact: It's getting even BETTER.

DENYS COWAN'S FIRST SKETCH

So, while we're waiting for your comments and conclusions, not to mention the CONTEST (keep your bib buttoned – I'll come to it later), here's the usual Introductory Material by the writer:

Contrary to what this first issue would lead you to believe, KOBALT is NOT a conventional superhero comic.

True, it's full of costumed characters who talk and act as tough as they look, just like other mysterious, brooding anti-heroes who became all the rage back in the 80s. And yes, it does feature a angst-ridden, misunderstood teenager with longings for adventure. I realize that neither of these concepts is new to comics, but so what? That's why I chose them.

There are certain basic elements to the superhero mythos that remain mysteries to this very day. I'm talking about eternal, unanswered questions such as, "Where do superheroes get their costumes, and do the people who make them know their secret identities?" "How come they never lose any teeth when they get socked in the jaw by a villain who can topple a sky scraper with a single punch?" "Why don't superheroes ever get hat hair when they remove their masks?"

BIBLE SKETCH BY CHRISCROSS

No origin story, pin-up page of power explanations, or "Who's Who" entry provides THESE answers. That, folks, is where KOBALT comes in. This book will take the reader behind the scenes of what being a superhero is all about. Think of it as a how-to guide to superheroics.

Beginning next issue, with Page's first day of training, we will begin to divulge such secrets as why superheroines wear such impractical and revealing costumes, and exactly what sort of responsibilities come with not-so-great powers.

Of course, it isn't ALL educational: There will be plenty of action, humor, colorful characters with cool names, cool powers, and cool costumes; characters with stupid names, stupid costumes and stupid powers; combinations of the cool and the stupid; exciting stories; great art, courtesy Arvell; name-dropping; mysterious foreshadowing and of course lots of FUN, which has been missing in most comics lately.

While we're on the subject of fun – this page is for you and your letters. The fact that I'm using it instead for a self-serving and long-winded introduction ought to be making you plenty mad. Keep it from happening again by sending in LOTS of letters. We also need a name for the letters page that matches the "dark and witty" nature of this comic. Your suggestions are bound to be much better than my own lame "Kobalt's Page." Milestone will provide the winner with cool gifts.

Speaking of gifts: The best thing you can do to increase your chances of gettiog your letter printed, is to keep it short, type it, include your name and address, and paper clip a fifty-dollar bill to the top of the page. No staples, please.

Next issue: Page walks back and forth across a board!

–John Rozum

You heard the man. The Name This Page contest is under way, with a signed copy of this issue; a framed 8" x 10" color reproduction of the cover art from each of the three new Milestone books, XOMBI, SHADOW CABINET and KOBALT; and a Milestone ballcap signed by this book's team as the bait. Go to it!

NEXT ISSUE: PAGE meets the KOBALT! As Kobalt takes out the next layer of St. CLOUD's empire, Page does, in fact, walk back and forth across a board!

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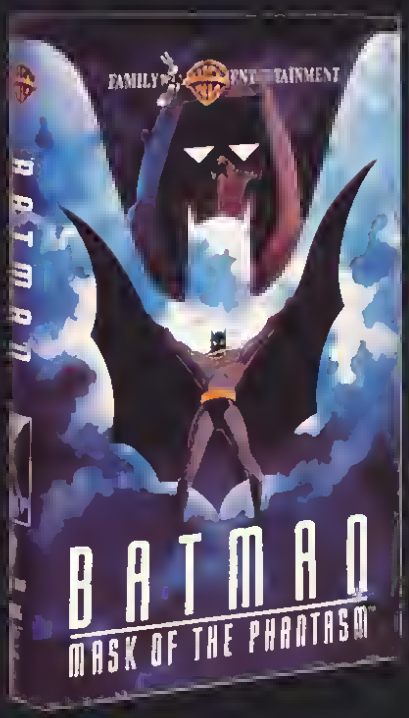
-Steve Persall, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES



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